



# Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

*Chairperson*

J. T. MCCANN, Chief  
Flagstaff Police Department

*Vice-Chairperson*

ROBERT CARTER OLSON  
Pinal County Attorney

JOSEPH ARPAIO  
Maricopa County Sheriff

DUANE BELCHER, Chairperson  
Board of Executive Clemency

DAVID K. BYERS, Director  
Administrative Office of the Courts

CLARENCE DUPNIK  
Pima County Sheriff

TONY ESTRADA  
Santa Cruz County Sheriff

TERRY GODDARD  
Attorney General

DANIEL HUGHES, Chief  
Surprise Police Department

BARBARA LAWALL  
Pima County Attorney

ROD MARQUARDT  
Mohave County Chief Probation Officer

TOMMIE CLINE MARTIN  
Gila County Supervisor

RICHARD MIRANDA, Chief  
Tucson Police Department

RALPH OGDEN  
Yuma County Sheriff

DORA SCHRIRO, Director  
Department of Corrections

LINDA SCOTT  
Former Judge

ANDREW P. THOMAS  
Maricopa County Attorney

ROGER VANDERPOOL, Director  
Department of Public Safety

VACANT  
Mayor

---

*Executive Director*

John A. Blackburn, Jr.

1110 West Washington, Suite 230  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
PHONE: (602) 364-1146  
FAX: (602) 364-1175  
[www.azcjc.gov](http://www.azcjc.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For More Information, Contact**

Mary Marshall at 602-364-1156 or  
via e-mail at [mmarshall@azcjc.gov](mailto:mmarshall@azcjc.gov)

## **Byrne Justice Assistance Grants program cuts FFY 06: Impact on Arizona**

### **Program changes**

*Phoenix, Ariz. (Jan. 13, 2006)*—In November 2004, Congress consolidated two long-standing local law enforcement grant programs: the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Grant Program and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program (LLEBG). The new program, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program, reduced overall funding to Arizona. The program is administered at the federal level through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) within the Justice Department.

The new JAG program not only consolidated the programs and reduced funding, but the program added a new wrinkle: the Bureau of Justice Assistance administered 40 percent of the state funds directly to larger local units of government, while 60 percent of the funding is administered at the state level by ACJC. Working with 60 percent of the state's total allocation, ACJC funds the state strategic initiatives as outlined in the [2004-2007 Strategy—Arizona Drug, Gang, and Violent Crime Control](#) document. ACJC also administers grants under \$10,000 to smaller jurisdictions that were previously funded under the LLEBG program. The funding split has potentially removed incentive for locals to buy into a statewide strategic plan.

### **Fiscal impact**

Under the new program guidelines and subsequent reduction in funding, ACJC is required to divide an already smaller pie into more slices. In FFY 04, the State of Arizona received \$8.825 million in Byrne funding and \$2.141 million in LLEBG funding. For FFY 05, the Arizona received \$9.5 million under JAG, subject to the 60/40 split. This resulted in a net loss of more than \$1.466 million to the State of Arizona, a 15 percent statewide reduction from FFY 04, and a reduction of 34 percent to the programs administered by ACJC that support the 2004-2007 strategy. This didn't include losses of discretionary (earmarked) funds directly appropriated to agencies.

In FFY 06, the State of Arizona will face another devastating cut to JAG funding, a 40 percent reduction from FFY 05, receiving approximately \$5.7 million (subject to the 60/40 split, with ACJC administering approximately \$3.6 million). The overall fiscal impact for the programs administered through the SAA (ACJC) is a two-year combined reduction of 67 percent from FFY 04 to FFY 06.

*Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity  
and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System in Arizona*

### **ACJC adjustments in FFY 05 and outlook for FFY 06**

ACJC took steps in FFY 05 to soften the blow from the initial cuts. For the FFY 05 program budget, ACJC was able to supplement its 60 percent share (\$5.5 million) of state JAG funding with \$600,000 in carry-over funding from the previous year. As in previous funding cycles, grant recipients were required to provide a 25 percent match to the federal JAG dollars (no match for state dollars), which totaled more than \$2 million of the program budget of \$13.1 million. In addition, ACJC supplemented the program with \$5 million from the state Drug and Gang Enforcement Account, which is funded from mandatory fines collected for felony drug offense convictions. Given the nature of this account, this is an unstable funding source that previously was used to help sustain proven programs that no longer qualified for Byrne funding. This one-time fix was not intended as a permanent solution to the loss of federal funds.

In FFY 05, the program funded 217 FTE and five PTE positions, down from 245 FTE positions in FFY 04. (These positions include law enforcement officers, prosecuting attorneys and support staff for both functions). The FFY 06 40 percent reduction in federal JAG funding will result in fewer positions being funded for this program (an across-the-board 40 percent reduction in personnel would result in a net loss of 87 FTE positions). The reduction comes at a time when Arizona is facing an explosive population growth (second highest in the nation) and an increase in meth-related crime and no additional resources to address these problems. Also, the program sustains 16 multi-jurisdictional task forces and tandem prosecution programs; with funding cut at this level, it is unlikely that all of these task forces and prosecution activities will remain viable.

### **Ripple effect**

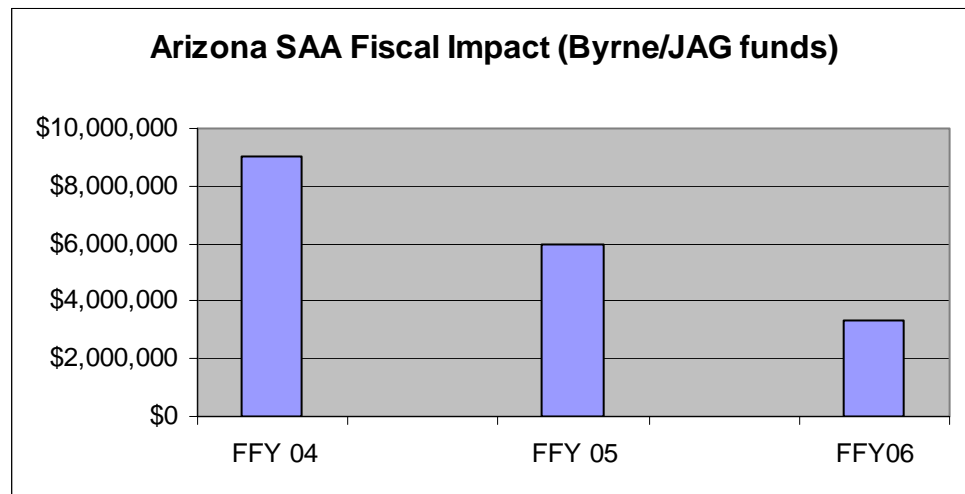
The Commission is concerned about a ripple effect to other program areas and funding sources. The decrease in law enforcement officers, narcotics agents and prosecuting attorneys could potentially result in fewer arrests and fewer fines, which would translate into a reduction of funding for the state Drug and Gang Enforcement Account.

Another program area impacted by the reduction in Byrne/JAG funding is the state criminal history improvement program, which the agency has identified as a critical issue. Currently, the state's criminal history records are 51 percent accurate; these are the criminal history records that teachers, health care workers and others who work with vulnerable populations are checked against before receiving professional licenses.

Since 1992, the original Byrne program provided for a five percent set aside of money to fund criminal records improvement projects. As the SAA, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission was responsible for administering the criminal records integration funds. In 1994, the ACJC approved a statewide Criminal Justice Records Improvement Plan and distributed the Byrne CJRIP funds via a competitive grant process that included an outcomes evaluation. Local agencies would buy in with a 25 percent match.

When establishing the program rules under the new JAG program, the Commission decided to continue to set aside five percent of the total funding for criminal history records improvement. However, these funds have been reduced by the same overall amounts indicated above. In addition, the federal funding provided under the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) was reduced by 60 percent in FFY 06.

The Commission will be facing some hard decisions with regard to the future of the Byrne/JAG program. These could include: eliminating funding for law enforcement overtime; reduction in FTE positions; dismantling of drug task forces and tandem prosecution projects; and reduced or eliminated funding for criminal history records improvement.



###

#### **About the ACJC**

*The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission is a statutorily authorized entity mandated to carry out various coordinating, monitoring and reporting functions regarding the administration and management of criminal justice programs in Arizona. In accordance with statutory guidelines, the Commission is comprised of 19 Commissioners who represent various elements of the criminal justice system in Arizona. Five of the 19 Commission members are agency heads, while the other 14 are appointed by the Governor to serve for two-year terms. ACJC was created in 1982 to serve as a resource and service organization for Arizona's 480 criminal justice agencies on a myriad of issues ranging from drugs, gangs, victim compensation and assistance to criminal record improvement initiatives. The ACJC works on behalf of the criminal justice agencies in Arizona to facilitate information and data exchange among statewide agencies by: establishing and maintaining criminal justice information archives; monitoring new and continuing legislation relating to criminal justice issues; and gathering information and research on existing criminal justice programs.*